



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 20 1996

The Honorable Dan Schaefer
U. S. House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0606

Dear Congressman Schaefer

Thank you for your correspondence of April 26, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Arnold C. Pohs, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. Pohs expresses concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in ~~PP Docket 93-181~~ and PP Docket 93-253 which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABOVE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U.S.
WASHINGTON, D.C. *PRB*

26 April, 19 *96*

Respectfully referred to *PR PAGING*

FCC
2/16/92
Attn: Dan Phythyon
1919 M St. NW
Wash. DC 20554

Very respectfully,



M.C., *106* District.

COMMNET CELLULAR Inc.™

APR 02 ENT'D

March 27, 1996

Arnold C. Pohs
Chairman, President & CEO

The Honorable Dan L. Schaefer
United States House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Schaefer:

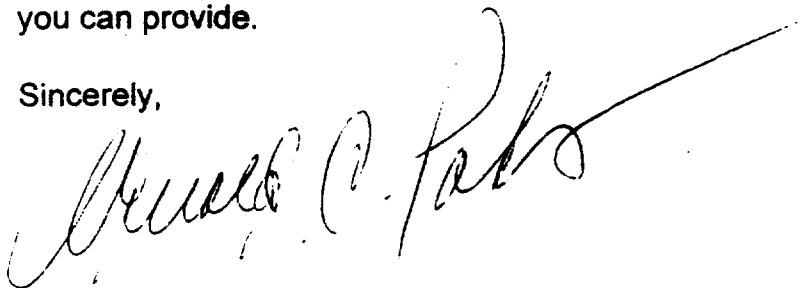
I am a provider of telecommunications services in your Congressional District and a member of a coalition of carriers providing paging service throughout the country. One of the coalition's goals is the elimination of a freeze on the filing of applications to expand and improve existing service, which was imposed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on February 8, 1996. As you are a member of the House Commerce Committee I would like to enlist your help with this matter.

The freeze was imposed by the FCC without seeking comment from the paging industry and we do not think the Commission truly understands the devastating effect the freeze will have on companies like mine. The paging industry is highly competitive and, until the freeze was imposed, it was thriving. Each day the freeze remains in effect, we will continue to be impacted economically and our subscribers will be deprived of needed service.

I would appreciate your support in our efforts to persuade the FCC to lift the freeze on the filing of paging applications. I have enclosed a draft letter to the FCC Chairman, Reed E. Hundt, that you can send regarding this matter.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. I would be grateful for any help you can provide.

Sincerely,



April 1, 1996

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to express my concern about recent actions taken by the Federal Communications Commission that are having an adverse impact on the paging industry. On February 8, 1996, the Commission imposed a freeze on accepting and processing virtually all paging applications, including applications for new or modified facilities by incumbent paging operators (WT Docket No. 96-18; PP Docket No. 93-253). This freeze broadly applies to all paging operators with the sole exception of those licensed to use nationwide channels. I understand that none of the comments filed with the Commission have supported the freeze.

I have learned that this action was taken by the Commission without first seeking the view of those businesses directly affected. This freeze is harmful to the paging industry because it precludes companies from expanding or modifying their facilities to meet the burgeoning customer demand. This action may be having an adverse economic impact not only on the robust U.S. paging industry and its employees, but also the vast numbers of subscribers who rely on paging to provide a wide range of services including emergency and life support services. The freeze also is impacting the major manufacturers of paging equipment, all of which are American companies.

Regardless of the Commission's intentions to act quickly on the rulemaking, even a short delay could have an adverse impact on this highly competitive industry in terms of lost opportunities in the marketplace. I am particularly concerned about the impact on the smaller local and regional carriers which compete with the nationwide competitors exempted from the freeze.

I thus urge the Commission to withdraw the freeze on incumbent licensees without further delay. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,